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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Arnold C. BILSTAD, et al.

Application No. 09/294,964 (CPA)

Art Unit: 1744

Prior Application Filed: April 20, 1999

CPA Filed: October 4, 2001

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MANIPULATING PRE-STERILIZED COMPONENTS IN AN ACTIVE STERILE FIELD

TC 1700

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicants submit herewith Form PTO-1449 and a copy of the reference listed thereon.

This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing date of a Request for Continued Prosecution Application pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) but before the mailing of a Notice of Allowance. The undersigned certifies that the Applicants became aware of the enclosed reference (U.S. Patent No. 3,780,308, issued December 18, 1973) not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. Therefore, no fee is enclosed. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees to Deposit Account No. 23-0280.

By:

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 15, 2001

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on October 15, 2001.

Sarah J. Goodnight (131053.1)

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